TOPICS IN CALIFORNIA.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL JUBILEE-MAYOR OF MOST NORTHERN AMERICAN CITY -TO GUARD AGAINST PEST

OF HARES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] San Francisco, Sept. 8 .- All the arrangements for the jubilee celebration of the admission of California into the Union are now completed for the four days' festivities. The city is finely decorated, and thousands of visitors already crowd the streets. The big ferry building and City Hall dome will be illuminated at night with electric lights, and lines of lights are stretched across Market-st. at frequent intervals from the ferry to the City Hall. The exercises began to-day with the launching of the monitor Wyoming at the Union Iron Works, which was witnessed by thousands of spectators. To-night the streets are illuminated, and the beautiful naval parade was held on the Bay, with several hundred brilliantly lighted vessels in line. To-morrow the fine new marble music stand in Golden Gate Park, the gift of Claus Spreckels, the sugar millionaire, will be dedicated with an orchestra of one hundred pieces. The music stand occupies the place of the Administration Building of the Midwinter Fair, and the seats are arranged in the old central court of the fair. On Monday the great parade of Native Sons will take place. All the military here will take part, and it is estimated that thirty thousand men will be in line. It will be rendered picturesque by fancy costumes and many historical floats. The final day will be devoted to yacht races and receptions, concerts

A half million dollars, in forty-two Govern ment bonds, were transferred in court this week to Oscar Luning as his share of the estate of his dead father, old Nicholas Luning, a famous money lender. Oscar was rendered incompetent several years ago by drink, and his sister was appointed his guardian. Now he has reformed and has taken charge of his wealth. Both he and his sister, Mrs. Fife, have brought suits against George Whittell, their brother-in-law, to recover large sums, which they allege that he, as trustee of the estate, has withheld from them. They accuse Whittell of underestimating the value of the estate and then absorbing portions which should have gone to them

The infamous "blackbirding" schooner Norms was wrecked last month on Mokolui Rock, Hawali, and proved a total loss. This versel was used in the seventles in the kidnapping and bringing over from the Gilbert and Marshall Islands natives to work on the Hawaiian sugar plantations. Many of these poor creatures died from homesickness and others committed suicide. Only a small percentage surmitted suicide. Only a small percentage survived to be returned after three or five years to their Island home. A labor contract, which the natives didn't understand, gave the sembiance of law to the transaction, but the traffic was virtually slave trading, and was sanctioned by the Hawaiian Government because it furnished cheap labor for the plantations.

This week a demurrer to the divorce intess Festetics, born Miss Elia Haggin, of New-York, was entered by attorneys for the Count. It is merely a formal proceeding to protect his rights, as his counsel have heard nothing from him since the suit was filed and don't know what part of the South Seas he is cruising.

Mayor Emile Quarre of Eagle City, Alaska who arrived here this week, claims the distinc-tion of being in charge of the most northern city tion of being in charge of the most northern city on the American continent. He predicts that Eagle will be the metropolis of the American Yukon. He has the most interesting collection of Yukon gold ever brought here. It includes gold dust and nuggets from thirty-four creeks and districts of Alaska, from Klondike to Nome. Twenty-eight samples are from creeks in American territory. The most surprising feature of the collection is the diversity of gold dust from creeks only a few miles apart. Thus Jack Wade creeks only a few miles apart. Thus Jack Wade Creek dust is coarse and shaped like pumpkin seed, while dust from a creek only sixty miles away is fine as gunpowder.

Slight rains have fallen in several parts of the State this week, but they did small damage, as the grape growers and fruit raisers had been warned by the Weather Bureau, except nd Fresno, where a sudden southeaster sur-

centre, and Carroll Seely, of Williams, as under-graduates this year, who will greatly strengthen the team, and give it some chance to even up the score with the State University. Frank Slaker, the Chicago fullback, has also arrived, and will join the team.

San Diego is the first county in California to pass laws against Belgian hares, the ordinance of San Diego City, adopted this week, making it unlawful for any one to liberate Belgian hares in the county, or to permit any which escape to remain at large. The losses of the Australian colonies through the rabbit pest have proved a warning, as it is estimated that one pair of Belgian hares will produce in ten years over a million and a half of their kind.

NEW COMPRESSED AIR CARS.

SYSTEM TRIED SUCCESSFULLY IN CHICAGO TO BE USED IN THIS CITY.

Chicago's record for wind and hot air is about to receive another testimonial, this time from the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, of this city. The style of compressed air motors, tried successfully in the Windy City, are being substituted for those now in use in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty ninth sts. crosstown lines. New cars have been fitted out and in use for more than a week About three years ago the Metropolitan company

decided to try compressed air, and adopted the system of the Compressed Air Power Company. The Hoadley motors were introduced. The Third Avenue Rattroad Company began using the Hardy motor, made by the General Compressed Air Company, on its One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st. line The result was more satisfactory, and the Metropolitan company effected a consolidation of the terests of the two air companies, forming the American Air Power Company. In the mean time Robert Hardy, the inventor,

In the mean time Robert Hardy, the inventor, had gone to Chicago in the interests of the Compressed Air Motor Company, and a system of compressed Air Motor Company, and a system of compressed Air Motor Company, and the Metropolitan wanted to use the Chicago system in New-York. As a result the Compressed Air Company was recently organized from the American Air Power Company and the Compressed Air Motor Company.

In the new system to be used here the cars will carry fourteen reservoirs on the truck, and one under each seat, having an aggregate capacity of fifty-five cubic feet and weighing 4.340 pounds. The air passes from the reservoirs into a common header, and from the header finto a pipe running to each end of the car. A stop valve under the control of the motorman regulates the flow of air. The air passes through a reducing valve and comes out at a working pressure of 150 pounds. It then passes into the reheating tank, which is placed in the middle of the truck, and contains 500 pounds of hot water, varying in temperature from 20 to 170 degrees. The air passes into the water through a perforated pipe. The air is heated to the temperature of the water, and is then drawn off at the top. The air passes from the exit pipe to the throttle valve of the motor, and thence to the valve chest of the engine, in the same way as steam in a steam engine. The cars are fitted with air brakes. The compressing station at West Twenty-fourthst, and the Hudson River, which was built for use with the old care, will be used for the new. It has a capacity of 56,735 cubic feet of free air per revolution, and compresses to 2,500 pounds per square inch.

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

The play that will open the season at the Bijou Theatre to-morrow night is called "Cupid Outwits Adam," and is a farce by Frederick Stanford, a writer whose name is new on playbilis. Among the players in the cast are Charles H. Bradshaw, Horace Lewis, George S. Probert, Miss Stella Kenny, William Herbert, Miss Julia Hanchett and Jacques Martin.

Notwithstanding the hot weather James K Hackett has been playing to good business in "The Pride of Jennico" at the Criterion Theatre. Miss Bertha Galland, as Princess Ottilie, is as popular

"The Great Ruby," as presented at the American Theatre by the new stock company, is drawing overflowing audiences. Mary Hampton, as Lady Garnet; Ralph Stuart, as the Indian Prince; Isabelle Evesson, as the Countess, and several others in the cast are called before the curtain frequently. "The Great Ruby" will be continued for a second

Tony Pastor heads his bill for next week with Gus Williams, in a new monologue. In addition he has Stinson and Merton, in their sketch entitled "The Unexpected"; Frank Gardiner and Lottle Vincent, in their musical farce, entitled "A Shat-tered Idol"; the Crane brothers, Mudge and Mortried Idoi; the Crane brothers, Mudge and Morton, John and Lillian Hoover, in "At the Vaudeville"; Williams and Melburn, in a new act, "The Fresh Mr. Ham"; Dan and Dolly Mann, in a rural sketch, entitled "Mandy Hawkins". Murphy and Andrews, Jacklin and Ingram, in illustrated songs; the Zereeth Trio, Charles De Camo, juggler; the dog Cora, Chris Green, in a black face musical act, introducing the trick gun, and the vitagraph.

Daniel Sully, as the Rev. John Whalen, in "The Parish Priest," has pleased the visitors at the Fourteenth Street Theatre, and they are turning out in large numbers to see him in his new play, which tells a story of life in one of the picturesque towns of the Wyoming Valley, in Pennsylvania, His engagement has been extended until Saturday, September 23.

At Koster & Bial's to-day's afternoon and even ing concerts present Marie Dressler, Alice Pierce Joe Welch, the four Parisians, Genaro and Bailey Keno, Welch and Melrose, Lowell and Lowell, the Four Emperors of Music, Vernona Jarbeau, the Russell brothers, Edna Leigh and Sylvia Thorne, Fanny sell brothers, Edna Leigh and Sylvia Thorne, Fanny Fields. Monroe and Mack, Lawrence and Harrington, Hodges and Launchmere, and Spaulding. Beginning with the daily matinee to-morrow, the bill changes throughout, with a single exception, including Maggie Cline, with new songs; George Fuller Golden, Montgomery and Stone, Francesca Redding the Russell brothers. Shean and Warren, George Evans, Tim Cronin, Haines and Pettingill. Carrie Graham, Farnum and Nelson, Mamie Remington, Craske and Stevens and Carlin and Brown.

Business at the Academy of Music is excellent where Andrew Mack is holding forth with his new Irish military melodrama, "The Rebei."

Weber & Fields's Music Hall is beginning another season. The burlesques "Fiddle-de-Dee" and "Quo Vas Iss?" will be continued this week.

Louis Mann, Miss Clara Lipman and their company will continue to play "All on Account of Eliza" at the Garrick Theatre, where the audiences have been good, and Mr. Mann's impersonation of the German-American ex-cattle raiser has caused much merriment.

With to-night's concert Hammerstein's Victoria Roof Garden closes for the season. To make the occasion a festive and memorable one Mr. Hammerstein offers a bill comprising fifteen vauder acts, besides the prizefight pictures of the Fitzsimmons-Ruhlin contest. Among the principal acts are the Johnson brothers, J. T. Aldrich, Richard Fuller Golden, Keno, Welch and Melrose, Hayes and Healy, Webb and Hassan, Elliot and Alliene, Durenda and Breen, Mile. Bartholomew, the Granger Trio, Allesandro, the Speck brothers and Griffin and Griffin.

Miss Hope Booth's first appearance as a star in New-York will take place at the Grand Opera House to-morrow night. Miss Booth will appear in Charles E. Blaney's "A Wife in Pawn." The regu-lar matiness will be given on Wednesday and

To-night will bring to a close the roof garden season at the Casino. The title of George W. Lederer's autumn production will be "The Belle of Bohemia." The book is by Harry B. Smith and the Bohemia." The book is by Harry B. Smith and the music by Ludwig Englander. "Sam" and "Dick" Bernard and Miss Virginia Earl will be in the cast, together with Miss Marie Dainton, formerly of the Galety Theatre, London, who will make her first appearance in America at the Casino; Paul F. Nicholson, Jr., Miss Irene Bentley, Miss Susan Drake, John Hyams, D. L. Don, Miss Anna Laughlin and Miss Lotta Faust. The production is set for the week of September II. or the week of September 17.

The Cherry Blossom Grove, the roof of the New A Russian arrived here this week who broke the record for slowness in reaching the Klondike. He started two years and three months ago over the Edmonton trail, and actually spent two winters on the way, enduring fearful hardships. He only reached Dewson last month, and came out after a short stay in the Klondike metropolis. The Edmonton trail is the one which Hamlin Garland followed until he was forced to turn back. It proved fatal to the hopes and to turn back. It proved fatal to the hopes and to turn back. It proved fatal to the hopes and to turn back. It proved fatal to the hopes and to turn back. It proved fatal to the hopes and to turn back. It proved fatal to the hopes and to turn back. It proved fatal to the hopes and to turn back. It proved fatal to the hopes and the seek are the Charmeuses, while the deliver from last week are the Charmeuses, will be the usual entertainment this evening. York, it is announced, will remain open till October

tractions this week, among others: At the Twenty-third Street Theatre, Robert Hilliard, in "The Littlest Girl"; Carta and Mirtziana, Post and Clinton, Morton and Elliott and the kalatechnoscope At the Fifth Avenue Theatre, Maurice Barrymore, in a monologue; Patrice, in "A Girl in the Moon" A. L. Guille, tenor; John D. Gilbert, the Brooks brothers and the kalatechnoscope. At the Palace, Bert Coote, in "Supper for Two"; Gertrude Haynes Manning and Prevost, George F. Marten and the kalatechnoscope. At the One-hundred-and-twentyfifth-st. Theatre, Joseph Hart and Carrie De Mar, in "A Close Call"; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Murphy, in "The Seventh Son"; George W. Day and the kala-technoscope. There will be a continuous concert to-day from 2 till 19:45 p. m. at each of the four

The rehearsals of "Vanity Fair," in which Miss Gertrude Coghlan is to star this season, are well advanced. The cast includes Guy Bates Post, as Rawdon Crawley; Cecil Kingston, as the Marquis of Steyne; Addison Pitt, as George Osborne; Harry of Steyne; Addison Fix, as Joseph Sedley; Marie Donohue, as Mrs. Major O'Dowd; Damon Lyon, as William Dob-bin, and Miss Annie Alliston, as Mrs. Crawley. The opening has been fixed for Thursday evening, Sep-tember 20, at Saratoga.

Frederick Warde will begin his twentieth annual starring tour to-morrow in Richmond, Va., presenting "The Duke's Jester" and repertory including "Hamlet," "Othello" and "Richelieu." In Mr. Warde's supporting company will be Miss May Warde, his youngest daughter, who is just entering on her stage career.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew will present their farce, "When Two Hearts Are Won," at Keith's this week. Jessie Couthoui will appear. "Sam," Clara and Kitty Morton will give music and dance ing. Mrs. Alice Shaw and her twin daughters will do some dancing in addition to their whistling Mark Sullivan and "Johnnie" Carroll will appear, and Silvern and Emerie will perform their manœuvres on the rings. The Holloway Trio will return to this theatre, and a novelty will be the début here of a new boy soprano, Joseph Santley. The blograph will be exhibited as usual.

Francis Wilson's opening in "The Monks of Malabar," at the Knickerbocker Theatre, has been postpened from to-morrow to Thursday evening, September 13. The change is due to alterations in the scenic plans. This decision was announced last night, too late for a correction to be made in an-other column of this paper, where the opening is announced for to-morrow night.

SHOES FROM LEATHER SCRAPS.

"Next winter you'll be wearing shoes with soles made from leather scraps," said the manager of a Massachusetts shoe factory who spent last week at an uptown hotel. "No, they won't be pieced together, if that's what you mean by asking if such soles won't be rough looking. The leather will be made much after the process that turns wood pulp into paper, only the pulp will be made from leather. Some genius has invented ma-chinery which will take a pulp made of leather scraps, press and mould it into a solid mass and

scraps, press and mould it into a solid mass and run it out at the other end a continuous strip of shoe sole. You will soon be able to buy sole leather by the yard and at a price that will make going be the supply is regulated by many things, some of them of seeming insignificance.

"Never come to the market looking for weakfish if an east wind has been blowing the day before, unless you want to pay a good price for them." is the advice of an old fisherman. "The catch off the Jersey coast is always light when the wind comes from the east. So you had better stick to be seen to the price of the cheaper grades of shoes."

scraps, press and mould it into a solid mass and run it out at the other end a continuous strip of shoe sole. You will soon be able to buy sole leather by the yard and at a price that will make going barefoot a positive crime.

"Sole leather has been costing us from 18 to 20 cents a pound for years. There is a great deal of waste, and practically no use for the scraps. A small quantity is used in making dyes, and the manufacturers of casehardened steel find use for a little more, but the bulk of it is thrown away. This new process will use all the scraps which can be secured and will bring the price of sole leather down to 5 cents a pound. The leather manufactured in this way will have no piles, and for that reason will turn water better. It should make a big difference in the price of the cheaper grades of shoes."

MUSICAL COMMENT.

LORENZO DA PONTE-A NEW BIOGRAPHY OF MOZART'S LIBRETTIST-POEMS TO A NEW-YORK LADY - BOITO'S

> OPERA "NERO"-MISS BALL-STROM-NEWS NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Musical students will be glad to learn that at last a complete and authoritative life of Lorenzo Da Ponte, Mczart's librettist, has been given to the world. It is the work of Professor Angelo Marchesan, of the University of Treviso, Ponte held the chair of rhetoric for a while before leaving his native land forever. The book, which is the fourth volume of a series of works which Professor Marchesan is writing on the history and literature of Treviso, is entitled "Della Vita e delle Opere di Lorenzo Da Ponte; con la giunta della famosa Accademia poetica per la quale dovette esulare da Vinezia e di altri versi inediti," and is published by Turazza, in Treviso. The author has

into such trite sentiments in English. Yet, here is an effort to preserve the sense and the music of the

THE OLD YOUTH. To his Angelic Friend Richer, far, my gracious Fanny, Is thy gift than golden treasure: Brings me balm for bruises many, Brings me of new life a measure Young I feel from contemplatio What shall follow mastication?

Time, who long since clipped the pinions
Of a man approaching eighty,
Nathless sends from his dominions
Tuneful harp with message weighty:
"Make thou lines, splite thy dejection,
In return for her confection!"

Glad my heart thus to be singing
Of the blessing to it given
When love's messenger came winging
Hitherward from out thy heaven—
Thou from irrst to latest hour
in my groves the sweetest flow'r.

Speak! my heart, and be recorded; Speak! thou hopelessly art drifting; Words and feelings hast thou hoarded. Utter them with no more shifting! She will surely grant thee pardon. She will surely grant thee pardon Loveliest Jasmine in thy garden!



MISS INGEBORD BALLSTROM. Soprano in the Metropolitan English Grand Opera Company.

not only made a careful study of everything that has been written on the subject of Da Ponte, but he has also made careful original research and put at rest a number of troublesome questions con cerning the life history of his hero. In this he has made copious use of the discoveries of The Tribne's writer on musical topics, who spent the summer of 1887 in an investigation of the American life of the old poet and found that all the published biographies were peppered with errors, and that even the official records of the city were wrong on the subject of the date of his death. The Tribune writer's conclusions on all points are accepted by Professor Marchesan with generous acknowledg-

Of especial local interest, moreover, is the publication of a number of poems written by Da Ponte in the album of a New-York woman-his pupil. This woman was Miss Fanny Leight, afterward Mrs. Cottenet, and the mother of Mrs. William C. Schermerhorn, who now owns the album and placed it at the disposition of Professor Marchesan through his friend, Professor Speranza, of Columall, improvisations, odes, sonnets, etc., and all were written in the last decade of the old poet's life. Da Ponte's expression of his admiration for the character and talents of his pupil was not confined, however, to the lines written in her album, but found record also in his biography in these

but found record also in his biography in these vords:

I returned to New-York in the first part of September—a month that was full of happy events for me. Among a number of new pupils who came for lessons fate brought me a young woman who was and is without doubt the brightest gem in my Tuscan crown, as I shall always call my New-York pupils. Besides the great delight which I experienced in teaching her because of her beautiful accent, the rapidity of her progress and the ardor of her love for our authors. I had also the happiness of being chosen to a place among her dearest friends—a place from which neither misfortunes nor evil reports, neither the hypocrisy nor the envy of hundreds and hundreds of enemies, could or ever will be able to remove me. A most affectionate daughter of adorable parents, a loving sister, a solicitous wife and tender mother—in all these conditions of life she always reserved a part of her affections for him who initiated her into the language which was and is still her sweetest delight. More than ten years have passed since we became acquainted, and while affections generally cool with the passing of time, in this lady they seem to grow day by day. It is impossible for one to imagine all the many and various ways which she found to give me ever new proofs of her affectionate courtesy. She consoled me in afficition, exulted in my joys, visited me in sickness, defended me against my evil wishers, praised me to her friends; and all that I write or say seems to her sweeter than nectar and more fragrant than flowers. In bestowing her frequent gifts she has withal an art, a wincomeness that makes it difficult to say which is the more admirable, the gift or the grace with which it is presented. Thus do I picture the beautiful, amiable and most virtuous F. L. L. (Fanny Lelght). New-York-needs-not to hear the name in order to recognize her. The dear name only ornaments my pages, so that if it ever happens that she shall some day see Italy all good people will do her the honor which she deserv people will do her the honor which she deserves and recognize in her one of the strongest supporters which our literature has in the most flustrious city of America. Let them know that her example is worth more to me as a means of extending the glory of Italian letters than all the arguments and labors of myself and hundreds of other students.

It is related of Da Ponte that, dying of old age (he was nearly ninety when he died), he yet addressed a sonnet to his physician, Dr. J. W. Francis, on the day before his death. He certainly had a marvellous flow of those lilting, rhyming words which fall together so easily, naturally and musically in Italian verse. One of the poems to his pupil can be put in evidence. Miss Leight had evidently sent him a New Year's gift of sweetneats, which, it is safe to assume, were only the cover of something better adapted to the octo-generian poet's needs, and he made his acknowledgments in verse to this effect:

IL VECCHIO GIOVANE. Alla gua Angelica Amica. Il tuo dono, O Franceschina, Val più assai d'ogni tesoro, Al mio petto è medicina, Al mio spirito è ristoro; Torno giovine a guardario; Che sarà nel masticario?

Sai che il tempo l'ali tarpa Ad un vecchio a ottanto giunto, Ma giacchè mi mandi un' arpa, Vo' che sia giunta in buon punto Voglio farti de' versetti In rincambio di confetti.

Voglio dir che del mio core Se' il più doice e caro oggetto, Che per te mi paria amore, Che a te penso con diletto; Che la prima fosti, e sei. Nel giardin de' fiori miei.

Voglio dir . . ma che dir deggio. Che sia pari a quel che sento? Tutto è nulla; lo ben lo veggio. E tu 'l sai, per mio contento. To lo sai, bel Gelsomino. Primo flor dei mio giardino.

Piova ognora in sul tuo stelo.
Piova ognor su le tue foglie
Quante dar può grazie, il clelo,
Quante siole il mondo accoglie,
Questi voti per te fanno
Le mie Muse al capo d'Anno.
Gennaio, 1829.

May the gentle rain from heaven Freshen thee, my precious flower;
To thee happiness be given,
Grace and love in all their power.
New Year's sun the sky suffuses
While this off'ring bring my muses. One of the much mooted questions concerning

Da Ponte was that of his origin. "Lorenzo Da Ponte was an assumed name. The real name of him who made it celebrated is unknown. He was the son of a Hebrew leather dealer in Ceneda, a small town of the Venetian republic. Until his fourteenth year he was brought up a Jew, but having attracted the attention of the Roman Catholic bishop of Ceneda, Lorenzo Da Ponte, by his precocious talents, the latter gave him an education and his name." Thus wrote The Tribune in 1887, and immediately there was an outcry in Europe against the statement that the poet was a Jew. There was no mention of the fact in his "Memorie," and he was styled an abbé. The Tribune accepted the evidence of Michael Kelly (the Irish singer, who sang at the first performance of "Le Nozze di Figaro" in Prague, and caricatured Da Ponte in one erman, who knew the old poet and wrote a highly appreciative account of him in "Putnam's Magazine" for November, 1868. Professor Marchesan's first paragraph confirms the report. His father was a Jew named Jeremiah Conegliano, his mother a Jewess named Rachel Pincherle. His real name was Emanuel Conegliano, and he had two brothers, Baruch and Ananias. On August 20, 1763 (the poet having been born in 1749), the entire family received Christian baptism and adopted the name



LORENZO DA PONTE. From the painting in the Columbia University Library.

of Da Ponte, the father becoming Gasparo Da Ponte, Emanuel Lorenzo, Baruch Girolamo and Ananias Luigi. Professor Marchesan reproduces the record from the register of the Cathedral of

Again we have news of Bolto's "Nero," the com-

pletion of which was announced at least fifteen years ago. It is now said that the opera will be performed at Milan in the coming season. It is in four acts, and Boito, as usual his own librettist, has followed Suctonius in his story. Unlike Rubin stein, Boito makes no use of the dramatic death scene of the Roman Emperor, but permits him to fall lifeless to the ground while fleeing from Rome in flames. There are four acts. The first act plays in the house of the magician Simon, who after an incantation scene attempts to fly, but falls to his death, and Nero's imperial mantle is daubed with his blood—an evil omen. The other three acts play in the camp at Anzio, from which the spectacle of burning Rome is visible. Poppæa, the wife whom Nero killed with a kick, does not appear in the opera. the principal female characters being the vestal virgin Rubia and a hetera. The book is said to be a masterpiece, and musicians who have seen the score say that the opera is much superior to At the first performance Bolto is to conduct the work, Tamagno is to take the part of Nero and the barytone Giraldoni that of Simon. Great care is to be bestowed upon historical accuracy in the stage furnishings, and Tamagno will take the famous portrait bust of Nero in the Capitoline Museum for his model. It is said that it was Verdi who succeeded in persuading the com-poser to give the opera to the public. Boito has had at least seven predecessors as the composer of an opera on the subject of Nero. Handel produced a German "Nero" at Hamburg in 1705; an Italian, Pallavicino, brought out a "Nerone" in Venice in 1679, Orlandini one in the same city in Le mie Muse al capo d'Anno.

Gennaio, 1829.

1721. Dunt one in Rome in 1730, Perti one in Bologna in 1695, Rubinstein a German "Nero" (the lit is obviously impossible to put so much melody text originally French by Jules Barbler) at Ham-

burg in 1879 and Porfile, Italian, in Naples in 1686. Rubinstein's opera was produced in New-York at the Metropolitan Opera House in an English version by John P. Jackson on March 14, 1887, under the direction of Theodore Thomas. Nero is, indeed, an excellent operatic subject, and Bolto's choice is not to be wondered at. The cruelty, profligacy, effeminacy, cowardice and artistic vanity of the Roman Emperor are traits which invite dramatic illustration, and for each one of them the pages of Suetonius afford incidents which accept a dramatic dress none the less willingly because they are historical facts. He died, as Suetonius says, exclaiming: "What an artist perishes with me!" artifex perco!") It will be observed that Polto, adhering to old operatic conventions, has given his Nero a tenor voice; so did Rubinstein. But the veritable Nero had a barytone, rather weak and a little rough and hoarse. "Quamquam exiguse vocis et fusce." says Suctonius. Yet, despite his vocal shortcomings, Nero once received the highest norarium ever paid to a singer, not less than 1,000,000 sesterces, say about \$40,000, for a single performance. This ought to be told to Jean de Reszke if ever his pride becomes inordinate.

We are promised a few novelties by the English Opera Company this season, but the regular Metropolitan list is not likely to receive more than one addition, "La Tosca." They do these things differently in Paris, the director of the Opéra Comique having announced twenty-two revelties for the season 1900-'01. They will, moreover, be new works as yet unpublished, their composers being Xavier Leroux, Alfred Bruneau, Pierne, Coquard, Hüe, Widor, Chaumet, Misso, Debussy, Hahn, Laurens, Pfeiffer, Silver, Levadé, Garnier, Hillsmacher, Bouval, Maréchal, Banès, Parès and Mme. G. Ferrari.

Miss Arma Senkrah, the violinist who committed suicide last Tuesday, was a native of New-York City. Her real name was Arma Loretta Harkness (Senkrah is an anagram), and she was born on June 6, 1864. Her career was wholly foreign. She studied with Arno Hilf at Leipsic, Henri Wieniawski at Brussels, and in 1881 won the first prize at the Paris Conservatory, where she was a pupil of Massart. She began concertizing in 1883, but married Herr Hoffmann, a lawyer in Weimar, in 1888. No cause has been assigned for her mad act.

Miss Ingeborg Ballstrom, who is to be the florid soprano of the Metropolitan English Opera Company, is a Swede, and was born in Stockholn began her career in her native city singing the part of Filina in "Mignon" at the Royal Opera. She will make her American début in the same part. After remaining three years at the Royal Opera she went to Berlin. Her principal roles are Michaela ("Carmen"), Martha, Violetta ("Trav-lata"), Juliet, Suzanne ("The Marriage of Figaro"), Rosina ("Barber") and the Queen in "The Huguenots.'

Hans Winderstein, conductor of the Leipsic Philharmonic Orchestra, who has planned an American tour for the coming season, writes a letter to the "Musikalisches Wochenblatt" complaining of the easy conscience which German orchestral musicians maintain in the matter of violations of contract. He argues the need of stability of organization if artistic results are to be attained, and relates that in spite of signed contracts no less than eight of his musicians had deserted from the ranks within a year, and this notwithstanding that he paid them salaries ranging from \$400 to \$600 a year. (Read this, German-American musicians!) He urges a union of concert givers to punish orchestral musicians guilty of breach of contract.

The Pittsburg Orchestra, under the direction of Victor Herbert, is to give eighteen concerts in the course of the approaching season, beginning on November 1. The solo performers who have been engaged are Mme. Schumann-Heink, Lillian Blauvelt, Teresa Carreño, Clara Butt, Maud Powell, Fanny Bloomfield Zeisler, Dohnanyi, Hugo Becker, Julian Walker, Fritz Kreisler, Arthur Whitney, Luigi von Kunitz, Henri Merck, Pol Plançon and Alexandre Scotti. The symphonies which Mr. Herbert has chosen for performance are Beethoven's third, fourth and fifth, Berlioz's "Fantastic," Borodine's in B minor, Brahms's C minor, Chadwick's second, Dvorak's in D major, Franck's in D minor, Glazounow's in C minor, Goetz's in F, Haydn's sixth and tenth, Mendelssohn's "Italian," Mozart's in E flat, Rubinstein's "Ocean," Schubert's in B minor and C major, Schumann's in B flat, Sinding's in D minor and Suk's in E major.

Mme. Schumann-Heink will sail for this country next Wednesdeay on the steamer Friederich der Grosse, arriving here about the 20th. She will go immediately to the Worcester Festival, after which she will be the leading contralto at the Maine State Musical Festival. From there she goes to New-Hampshire, where she will sing two concerts. On the afternoon of October 11 her first appearance in New-York this season will be made in a recital at Carnegle Hall in conjunction with Miss Leonora

Apropos of the "Lohengrin" semi-centennial, "The London Telegraph" says:

London Telegraph" says:

"Lohengrin." though more than once promised, had to wait a quarter of a century before it was seen on the stage in England, and its production, like that of so many other great works, was then due to the personal influence of a "star" vocalist. Campanini had won enormous success as Lohengrin in Milan and New-York, and he insisted it should be mounted at Drury Lane. But Costa, who was then conductor, was slow to move, and Gye got the opera out first at Covent Garden on May 8, 1875, with Albani and d'Angri, Nicolini and Maurel in the chief parts. Dr. Von Bülow, whose "cuts" were then used was present, and characterized Mme. Albani as "the ideal Elsa." To the amazement of every opera goer of the old school, the gallery stlenced all applause during the progress of the music, a premonition of the "Bayreuth hush" of the following year. On June 12, 1875, "Lohengrin." with plentiful "cuts," but, it is said, metroromed by Wagner, was produced by Costa at Drury Lane, the chief parts being played by Nilsson, Titiens (the greatest Ortrud we ever had), Campanini, Behrens and Galassi. About eight years later Dr. Richter overhauled Costa's score and parts and corrected some hundreds of copyists' errors, which Sir Michael, who did not love the music of the future, had stoutly declared were the composer's intentions. Absolutely the first hearing in England of the "Lohengrin" music was, however, a (very bad) concert performance, which few will, perhaps, now recollect, given under the late Dr. Wylde on June 11, 1873. Parena was to have played Elsa, but she was ill, and Mme. Corani took her place, Enequist being Ortrud, Mongini Lohengrin, Lewis Thomas the King and Michael Maybrick the Telramund.

"An amusing correspondence," says "The Tele-

"An amusing correspondence," says "The Tele graph," "is quoted in the French papers between Mr. Grau and his tenor, Signor de Lucia. Signor de Lucia had, it is said, announced in the Naples journals that in order to undertake the management of the San Carlo, he had relinquished an engagement of £10,000 with Mr. Grau in America. Mr. Grau is said to have replied that the engagement was not relin quished, as so valuable a tenor could not be spared adding that, by the way, the contract was not for £10,000, but for £0,000 francs (£3,600) for a tour of five months. Seven hundrel pounds a month is, how, ever, not at all a bad fee for an operatic tenor."

Mr. Frank Van der Stücken, conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and who was for many years the director of the Arion Society, has been secured by Mr. Henry Wolfsohn to conduct the orchestra for the reappearance of Mme. Lillian Blauvelt, which occurs on Tuesday evening, October 16, in Carnegie Hall.

Mascagni has recently published another new opera, net the much advertised "Maschere," but a lyric drama entitled "Vistilia." The libretto, based on a novel by the Italian writer, Racco de Zerbi, has been written by Menasci and Targioni-Tezzetti, who collaborated for the book of "Cavalleria Rusticana." The opera is divided into a prologue and four acts, and the action, which goes back to the times of the Emperor Tiberius, deals with the love of Vistilia and Helius. All the dialogues in the libretto are written in hexameter verse. As to the music, Mascagni's friends hope it will be the long awaited masterpiece.

For the testimonial concert to Mrs. Kaltenborn on Friday the cost of admission will be double the present one-that is, it will be \$1, reserved seats \$1 50. Following will be the programme:

Piano fanta	isie, "Dar V	wandere.		Schube	Lasser
Dream must	ic, "Hansel "Hungarian	und Gre	tel"	Hame	
Ballet must	· Faramor	Mr. Eng	el.		
	nna Woods.	ITM INC	Mar.		
Overture, "	Mignon"	Worm	ser.		
	Pagliacei"	Itsa Vois	ght.		neavalle
Overture, "Wotan's Fr	William Tell	Mr. Mile	Fire Scen	ne "Die	Nicota
wangure	Mr. Ve	ron and	orchestra.	*******	Wagne
Park to the second					

Miss Louise B. Voigt, Mrs. Josephine Jacoby, Gwylm Miles P. O. Veron, Carl Hugo Engel and Leopold Winkler. At to-night's concert Hermann Beyer-Hane, 'cello, and Hugo Schmidt, trumpet, will play. The orchestra will play these numbers

Overture. "Oberon".
"L'Rouet d'Omphaie"
"Kammenol Ostrow"
String orchestra, Prefude to "The Deluge"
Douce Caroniles
scond Polonales
Destrue, "Sakuntala"
Peetire, Zampa" verture, "Zampa overture, "Zampa

The Metropolitan English Grand Opera Company

will present during the season of grand opera, which begins at the Metropolitan Opera House on Monday, October 1, a repertory covering a wide range of opera. It will be selected from the following list: "Faust," "Tannhäuser," "Mignon," "Carmen," "Lohengrin," "Il Trov. tore," "La Gloonda," "Aida," "Lucia di Lammermoor," leria Rusticana," "Romeo and Juliet," "T hemian Girl," "Martha," "La Traviata," Glovanni," "La Boheme," "Rigoletto," "Die Meis-tersinger," "TPagliacci," "Paul and Virginia," "Masaniello," "The Magic Flute," "The Martiage "Masaniello," "The Maric Flute," "The Marriage of Figaro," "Hänsel and Gretel," "Fra Diavolo," "Lakme," "The Mikado," "H. M. S. Pinafore" and ther light operas. "Esmeralda," by Arthur Gorng Thomas, will be the first novelty of the season. It has never been performed in America, although it acquired great popularity in England, where it was originally produced in 1893. The subscription sale of seats and boxes will begin at the box office at 9 o'clock on the morning of Monday, September 17. The prices are as follows: Evenings, entire orchestra, \$2; entire orchestra circle, \$1 56; entire dress circle, \$1; entire balcony, To cents; entire family circle, 50 cents; general adm cents; boxes, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8 and \$10. Wednesday matinee, entire lower floor, \$1; entire dress circle, 75 cents; entire balcony, 50 cents; entire family ircle, 25 cents; general admission, 25 cents; boxes, 34, 35 and 36. Saturday matinee, entire orchestra, \$1.50; entire orchestra circle, \$1; entire dress circle, 75 cents; entire balcony, 50 cents; entire family circle, 50 cents; general admission, 50 cents; boxes, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8 and \$10. "Faust," "Tannhäuser" and "Mignon" are the operas selected for the first week. The sale of single seats begins on Monday, September 24.

During the last week or two several additional singers have been engaged by Mr. Graff for the Sembrich Opera Company, among them Mms. Marie Mattfeld, who will be heard as Siebel in "Faust," Bertha in the "Barber of Seville," Alice in "Lucia," Annina in "Traviata," Maddelena in "Rigoletto," and Signor Paolo Galazzi, who will sing Ficrello in the "Barber of Seville," the Notary in "Don Pasquale," a part in "Faust," Arturo in "Lucia," the Doctor in "Traviata" and Mon-terone in "Rigoletto." The chorus has all been engaged and has been most carefully selected. The tour is practically all booked, and provides for over seventy appearances of Mme. Sembrich in the course of the season.

Mme. Gadski will arrive this season about the first week in November, and proceed immedia to San Francisco for the opening there of the Maurice Grau opera season. At the close of the season at Covent Garden Mme. Gadski went to her home in Berlin, where she has since remained. In the course of the season here she will be heard in several new roles. Mme. Gadski will also be heard in a number of concerts during the coming season under Mr. C. L. Graff's management, Mr. Graff, in making the contract for Mme. Gadski with Mr. Grau, having reserved the right of concerts abso-

Herr Andreas Dippel, who is again announced as one of the leading tenors of the Maurice Grau Opera Company, comes over several weeks before the opening of the season for a series of concerts under the management of Mr. Graff. will be heard in several song recitals en route to San Francisco, where he goes to join the Maurica Grau Opera Company.

STREET FAKIRS HAVE NOVELTIES. "I wish it was this time last year," said the street fakir who has been selling woolly white rabbits

with a rubber tube attachment which makes them "I don't see that you've got any cause to comsaid the man who carried a tray of me-

chanical mice. "Your rabbits sell twice as good as these bloomin' mice. People don't want mice even "But just think of the money we made last Sep-

"But just think of the money we made last September and October. It makes me sick to think of how we will probably never have another Admiral who will come home as big a hero as Dewey was. Then the yacht races came at the same time. I was seiling Olympia hatpins and the 'Hands Across the Sea' badges. They were a mint. I had a friend who sold the Dewey whistle and made 3300 in one month. It was a good whistle, too, a regular steamboat siren. After Dewey passed along we had that long run on the Shamrock and the Columbia noveities. You remember the wind was wanting, and the fight for the Cup lasted for weeks. I'm Irish, and made a stake seiling Shamrock badges, because I could throw a little brogue into my 'talk'.

badges, because I could throw a little brogue into my talk."

"Of course, street trade in New-York will always be good. There is not a better place in the country for fake things. The people know they are getting faked, but they rather like it, and the worse the fake the better they like it. I'm not going to try to sell campaign buttons this year. New-York people are not going to get very excited over this election, and most people are itred of wearing buttons. Of course, there will be lots of them sold, but there is not the money in it there used to be.

"The best thing that's been out lately is the whistling pig, the bladder affair that is shrieking at you from every corner. There has been more than half a million of those pigs sold in the last month. People buy them for their children and are sorry for it until the things are blown up too month. People buy them for their children and are sorry for it until the things are blown up too much and burst. A boy with one of those pigs can start a whole block saying things that wouldn't look well in print, and when a hundred boys have them and are working them at the same time the noise is awful. The fall is going to see a rush for pneumatic animals. The rabbits are going like wildfire, and there will be other sorts out soon."
"You'd better take a rabbit home to the baby, madam," he said, turning to a prospectice customer. "They are harmless, perfectly harmless, and will keep the little ones quiet for hours."

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